

## Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SCCT-01 ( ISO ) W

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O 101655Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5248

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BEIRUT 8794

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF ABDUCTION OF COL. MORGAN

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF MORGAN CASE FOCUSED TODAY ON STATEMENTS  
OF QUOTE COMMAND OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION UNQUOTE AND QUOTE  
PALESTINIAN FRONT OF FORCES REJECTING SURRENDERIST SOLUTIONS  
UNQUOTE, BOTH PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY SEPTELS, AND ON BITS AND  
PIECES OF INVESTIGATION AND SPECULATION.

2. ACCORDING TO LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", INTERIOR  
MINISTER/FORMER PRESIDENT CHAMOUN TOLD REPORTERS YESTERDAY  
THAT QUOTE IT APPEARS THAT MORGAN'S KIDNAPPERS ARE LEBANESE  
UNQUOTE AND, WHEN ASKED IF USG HAD ASKED ANYTHING OF LEBANON  
REGARDING COLONEL, THAT QUOTE WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING UNQUOTE.

3. "AN-NAHAR" QUOTES INFORMED SOURCES AND LEADING  
PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR" QUOTES PALESTINIAN SOURCES TO EFFECT  
THAT COL. MORGAN WAS STILL ALIVE AS OF LAST NIGHT. "AN-NAHAR"  
ALSO QUOTES INFORMED SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT QUOTE EMBASSY OF  
WEST EUROPEAN STATE IN BEIRUT HAS PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS  
CASE BY TRANSMITTING SOME CONDITIONS -- WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN  
DISCLOSED -- TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO ASSURE RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED  
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COLONEL UNQUOTE.

4. ON ISSUE OF DEMANDS, "AN-NAHAR" QUOTES INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING QUOTE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES DID NOT RESPOND TO CONDITIONS OF KIDNAPPERS AND SO INFORMED COMPETENT LEBANESE AUTHORITIES UNQUOTE. BY CONTRAST, LEADING PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" STATES QUOTE IT WAS UNDERSTOOD YESTERDAY AFTERNOON THAT THE AMERICANS HAD, VIA THEIR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT, SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEDE TO DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS AND TO STUDY MEANS OF CARRYING OUT THE CONDITIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR RETURN OF COLONEL MORGAN, BUT THAT LEBANESE OFFICIALS HAD EXPRESSED THEIR RESERVATIONS OVER SUCH A STEP AND REQUESTED MORE TIME TO GET MORGAN BACK WITHOUT CARRYING OUT THE CONDITIONS UNQUOTE. LEADING INDEPENDENT WEEKLY "AL-HAWADITH" CARRIED SIMILAR SPECULATION. INDEPENDENT "AL-BAYRAQ" ATTRIBUTED SIMILAR RESERVATIONS TO PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP: QUOTE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND REJECTED EXECUTION OF ANY OF THE CONDITIONS AND INSISTED ON NECESSITY FOR KIDNAPPED COLONEL'S SURRENDER WITHOUT RESTRICTION OR CONDITION UNQUOTE.

GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, KIDNAPPING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 MAR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <16 MAR 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS COVERAGE OF ABDUCTION OF COL. MORGAN  
**TAGS:** PINS, CASC, LE, US, (MORGAN, ERNEST R)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006